the Government on the recommendations made by the World Bank.

Non-performance of R & D in BHEL

19. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Science Advisory Committee of the Cabinet has recently gone into the R & D in BHEL to know the reasons for its non-performance;

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(c) what steps are contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) A Committee has been constituted by the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to look into R & D in BHEL. The Committee has not submitted the report.

Increase in Crude Oil Import Bill

20. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by what percentage country's crude oil import bill is anticipated to rise during the current year as compared to the previous year 1986-87;

(b) what is the comparative percentage of rise in the domestic demand for crude oil anticipated durthe current year as compared to the demand in 1986-87;

(c) what is the anticipated percentage of rise in the domestic production of crude oil during the current year as against the target and the extent to which the domestic demand is likely to be met as a result thereof; and

(d) what are the reasons for not achieving the crude oil production target during the current year stating the extent to which the new oil fields discovered in the country have been exploited so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The crude oil import bill is anticipated to rise by 46 per cent during the current year as compared to the previous year 1986-87.

(b) The processing requirement of crude oil during 1987-88 is estimated to rise by 2.4 per cent over the year 1986-87.

(c) During 1987-88 the target production of crude oil in the country is 30.46 MMT. This is expected to be met. The degree of self reliance will be 61.05 per cent with reference to the total petroleum products demand.

(d) Does not arise as target of crude oil production during the current year is expected to be met.

Strike in Heavy Engineering, Ranchi

21. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a prolonged strike in the Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi recently, causing immense loss to it; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the strike and the efforts made by Government to avert or end the strike?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The reasons for the strike and the resultant lock-out are the multiplicity of Unions, inter-union and intra-union rivalries and

interference of outside elements. As a result of amicable settlement on 24-7-87, the lock-out has been lifted with immediate effect.

Private sector participation in Power Production

22. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group set up by Government has recommended for greater participation by private sector in order to meet the power shortfall;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted its recommendations; and

(c) if so, what follow-up action has been taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) Government has had under consideration the question of private sector participation in electric power generation. A Working Group was constituted to examine the modalities of participation by the private sector. The Working Group has submitted its report which is being examined.

Proposal regarding allotment of land to M/s. Reliance Industries Limited

23. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY.

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat had forwarded a proposal to the Central Government for allocating certain land owned by the latter for being given to M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. for putting up thereon their PTA and LAB plants at Hazira;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any other private or public company or corporation had made any such request directly to the Central Government; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI B. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) No such payments have been received by the Government.

Increase in the prices of truck and bus tyres

24. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of truck and bus tyres have been increased by the tyre manufacturers; and

(b) if so, the extent of the increase and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) According to the information supplied by the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association, the Tyre companies have increased the prices of tyres approximately by 7 per cent in July 1987. The reason is stated to be the increase in cost of production by over 7.43 per cent after the last price revision of tyres in May 1986.